AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/018,441

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are all the claims pending in the application.

I.   Claim Objections

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's suggestions for correcting

typographical errors. The Examiner's suggestions have been followed and the claims have been

amended accordingly.

II.   Claim Rejections Section 112

Claim 4 stands rejected for including the term "mirrors" which is alleged to be indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims is not indefinite. Notably, the Merriam-Webster

dictionary defines the term mirrors as: "something that gives a true representation; an exemplary

model." Using this definition, the claim limitation may be read "in a first system architecture

that *gives a true representation of* a network architecture which is common to a selected one of

the multimedia collaboration system networks." Applicants respectfully submit that such a

recitation is clear to those of ordinary skill in the art.

III.   Claim Rejections Section 103

Claims 1-28 and 30

The Examiner rejected claims 1-28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly

unpatentable over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent

No. 6,141,777). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendment to

independent claims 1 and also in view of the following arguments.

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First, with respect to the combination of Stewart and Curtell suggested by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully note that these two references are not properly combinable, because they have fundamental differences, and in fact teach away from each other in several ways. First, Stewart pertains to event data gathered by switches serving switched telephone calls (as the Examiner indicates in page 4 of the Office Action), while the system of Curtell, in contrast, reports "...only events which are germane to the particular package of leased services." (Curtell 2:18-19). As it is well known to one skilled in the art, leased services are unswitched communication services and involve the technology that provides no implementation of a telecommunications "call." Also, as it is well known to one skilled in the art, switched calls and leased services (which are unswitched, without call implementation) are mutually exclusive concepts. Therefore, even at the most general level, the Stewart and Curtell systems pertain to very different technologies.

Second, at a more detailed level, at page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "Curtell teaches a telecommunications reporting service that receives parameters specifying data to report to a user." However, the features of the Curtell system completely differentiate it from the system of Stewart. Specifically, the monitored events in Stewart are switch- and call-oriented, while those in Curtell are explicitly leased-line services, and hence not switch- and call-oriented. Furthermore, the types of events recorded in Stewart are fixed and prescribed, while those in Curtell are only recorded if the user instructs the system to do so. That is, in Stewart "all" events are recorded and may be filtered by the user after the recording, while in Curtell events are filtered before they are recorded. As a result in Curtell, the user cannot obtain reports

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requiring information that was not pre-specified in advance. Finally, the teaching of Stewart

involves information gathering only via downloading tables of collected events provided by

network switches. On the other hand, Curtell gathers information from Network Carrier

"network management systems" (3:2-3:9).

Thus, because in the systems of Stewart and Curtell the information sources are different,

recorded events are different, event recording/filtering order is different, and types of data

recorded are mutually exclusive, these systems teach away from one another and simply cannot

be combined. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Stewart cannot be properly

combined with Curtell.

Further, with respect to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that "Stewart does not teach that

the reports are generated based on a query parameter sent from a the user, However, tailoring

similar reports based on user specification was well known in the art, as evidenced by Curtell"

and "Curtell teaches a telecommunications reporting service that receives parameters specifying

data to report to a user," see page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully maintains the Examiner's position is incorrect. In particular, in

Stewart, "all" events are recorded and may be filtered by the user after the recording, while in the

aspects of Curtell the Examiner cites, events are filtered before they are recorded. Unspecified

events are never recorded in Curtell, and are not included based on omission from the recording

process. This differs from events being included or omitted (from a report) by the actions of a

reporting module as required by claim 1. Curtell teaches that the report is customized by the

selecting the material to be presented for recording by the user workstation (2:7-2:22). Thus, in

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Curtell, events are filtered first, recorded by the workstation second, and created as a report by

the workstation third. (There is no reporting module responsive to actions of the user after the

data has been recorded, as required by the current claim.) In the present claim, on the other

hand, events are recorded first by a database, and presented to the user by reporting module

responsive to actions of the user after the data has been recorded.

For these reasons, Applicant maintains the attempt to combine of Stewart and Curtell

fails, and further does not cover the structure of the invention recited in claim 1. The Examiner's

rejection is thus respectfully traversed, and Applicants maintain Claim 1 is allowable.

Additionally, Examiner asserts that the "...collaboration reporting system could be

considered a multimedia collaboration reporting system because voice communication is a form

of multimedia collaboration." Applicant respectfully maintains the Examiner's position is

incorrect. In the claim and specification, 'multimedia collaboration reporting system' pertains to

recording and reporting system for a multimedia collaboration system network. As the Examiner

would undoubtedly appreciate, multimedia networks are networks providing multimedia

communications, for example involving a plurality ("multimedia") of media ("multimedia")

types, that is, supporting two or more from the list of audio, video, text, graphics, telepointers,

annotations, etc.

The voice networks of Stewart and Curtell are, in contrast, "single-media networks," and

exactly the very types of technologies that the term "multimedia networks" was coined to

differentiate away from. Although a multimedia network can carry a single media, a single-

media network cannot carry multimedia information. Thus a single-media network simply cannot

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be construed a multimedia network. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent

claims are additionally patentable because nether Stewart nor Curtell teach or suggest the

"multimedia networks," specifically recited in claim 1.

Further, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner lists elements of claim 1, which the

Examiner alleges are described in Stewart. Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's

purported identifications of the elements of claim 1 in Stewart. Specifically, the Examiner states

that Stewart teaches "an event monitoring module for monitoring internal network system

events, external network system events, and service events," citing column 6 lines 34-44 and

Table1 of Stewart. By way of clarification, Applicants note that the claimed element in fact

reads "internal network events" rather than "internet network events."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the aforesaid "event

monitoring module for monitoring internal network system events, external network system

events, and service events" is disclosed in Stewart. As seen in Figure 1, and called out explicitly

in the TECHNICAL FIELD section (1:11-14: "... and, more particularly, to a method and

apparatus for internet accessible, on-line monitoring of a telecommunication network on a

network or switch basis"), and further positioned in column 1 line 17 through column 3 line 6,

the Stewart system only addresses the affairs of a single telecommunication network (Figure 1

element 10). This network 10 is connected with local exchange networks 18, 20 but the entries

in Table 1 (as well as those in the DMS-100 office engineering tables at the bottom of column 6)

pertain only to internal network system events. Examiner cites Private LAN 23 as a viewpoint

for decreeing the events of the Stewart network 10 as "external network events." However,

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Examiner also considers the events of Stewart network 10 as internal network events. The Examiner's position appears to be self-contradictory because in Stewart, all recorded events occur within Stewart network 10, while the purpose of Private LAN 23 is for the reporting of the recorded events which occur within Stewart network 10. Thus, the Examiner cannot state that Private LAN 23 views the events within Stewart network 10 as both internal network events and external network events.

In fact, nowhere does Stewart teach the existence, the handling, the recording, or the reporting of external network events as specifically required by claim 1. This fact alone overcomes the Examiner's rejection of claim 1. In addition, the Examiner failed to point to specific portions of Stewart, which disclose the event monitoring module recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that for all the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable.

With respect to Examiner's rejection of claims 2-28 and 30, Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claim 1 and that these claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on the patentable amended independent claim 1.

Claim 29

The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,141,777) and further in view of Ditmer et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,490,620). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that the rejection of this claim is

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rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claim 1 and that this claim is patentable at

least due to its dependence on the patentable amended independent claim 1.

<u>Claims 31-39 and 41</u>

The Examiner rejected claims 31-39 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly

unpatentable over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Grabelsky et al. (U.S.

patent No. 6,678,250). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendment

to independent claim 31 and also in view of the following arguments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to admit that "Stewart does not teach that

participants have workstations for displaying visual images and A/V capture and reproduction

capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants."

Examiner cites Grabelsky, as allegedly teaching a communications network adapted to provide

video conferencing wherein a plurality of workstations each have a monitor for displaying visual

images and A/V capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video

images of the participants." However, as shown in Figure 1 of Grabelsky, the depicted clusters

phones, cameras, monitors, personal computers, etc. around gateways (20-23) are not elemental

components of a workstation but rather varieties of isolated equipment scattered over a collection

of endpoints; see Grabelsky, 4:30-4:34. There is no teaching of a workstation. Additionally, as

explained in Applicants' response to the Office Action of March 16, 2005, filed on September

14, 2005, Grabelsky teaches a packet network which is an entirely different technology that the

circuit-switched telephony network of Stewart. Thus there is not only a lacking of teaching as to

a video-enabled workstation in Grabelsky, there additionally is no teaching of any video in a

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context applicable to the network of Stewart. Further, video is simply mentioned in Grabelsky –

the teaching is limited to element 17 in Figure 1 and a listed item in 4:34. Thus the Examiner's

sweeping proclamation that "Given the teachings of Grabelsky, it would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the participants with workstations for displaying visual

images, thereby satisfying the needs of multimedia conferences" is inaccurate. There is no

applicable teaching by Grabelsky, and nothing is made obvious. This reasoning failing,

Applicant maintains that Claim 31 is allowable.

Further, as with claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree with Examiner's purported

identifications of various elements of claim 31 in Stewart. Specifically, the Examiner states that

Stewart teaches "a data network providing a data path along which data can be shared among a

plurality of the participants (Figure 1, network 10)." Applicants respectfully disagree. Stewart's

Figure 1 shows data communications among network switches 12a-12e. In the specification and

the associated disclosure "participants" are human end users located at endpoint workstations,

and not internal network entities. The data communications among switches is only for

communicating network information, not data among end user endpoints. Further, Stewart's

network switches 12a-12e comprise neither human end users nor endpoint workstations. For this

reason, the Examiner's purported identification of the aforesaid claim element is incorrect.

Examiner further states that Stewart teaches "a data conference manager for managing

the sharing of data between the plurality of workstations (as shown in Figure 1, any switch 12)."

However, data conferencing is a well known class of user application that allows users of

desktop and laptop computers to share visual data as would be found in spreadsheets,

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presentation slides, etc. Such software does not run on switches, and there is no manager of the

data conferencing that runs on switches. Examiner appears to have confused "data conferencing"

with basic data networking. This, too, alone will traverse the Examiner's objection to the claim.

With respect to Examiner's rejection of claims 32-39 and 41, Applicants respectfully

submits that Examiner's rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendment of

the parent claim 31 and that these claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on the

patentable amended independent claims 31.

Claim 40

The Examiner rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable

over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent No.

6,141,777) and further in view of Ditmer et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,490,620). Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that this claim is patentable at least

due to its dependence on the patentable amended independent claim 31.

Claim 42

The Examiner rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable

over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Grabelsky et al. (U.S. patent No.

6,678,250) and further in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,141,777). Applicant

respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following arguments.

First, Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's purported identification of

various elements of claim 42 in Stewart. Specifically, the Examiner states that Stewart teaches

"a multimedia collaboration system for conducting a conference among a plurality of participants

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(figure 1)." Applicant disagrees. As argued regarding Claim 1, Stewart does not teach a

multimedia network nor anything that could be construed as a multimedia network.

Second, as was argued in connection with claim 31, Stewart fails to teach "a data network

providing a data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of participants (Figure 1,

network 10)."

Additionally, Examiner admits "Stewart does not teach that participants have

workstations for displaying visual images and A/V capture and reproduction capabilities for

capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants." Examiner cites

Grabelsky, claiming teaching of a communications network adapted to provided video

conferencing wherein a plurality of workstations each have a monitor for displaying visual

images and A/V capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video

images of the participants." However, as shown in Figure 1 of Grabelsky, the depicted clusters

phones, cameras, monitors, personal computers, etc. around gateways (20-23) are not elements

of a workstation but rather varieties of isolated equipment scattered over a collection of

endpoints; see 4:30-4:34. There is no teaching of a workstation. Additionally, as explained in our

September 14, 2005 response to the March 16, 2005 office action, Grabelsky teaches a packet

network which is an entirely different technology that the circuit-switched telephony network of

Stewart. Thus there is not only a lacking of teaching as to a video-enabled workstation in

Grabelsky, there additionally is no teaching of any video in a context applicable to the network

of Stewart. Further, video is simply mentioned in Grabelsky – the teaching is limited to element

17 in Figure 1 and a listed item in 4:34. Thus the Examiner's sweeping proclamation that "Given

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the teachings of Grabelsky, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

provide the participants with workstations for displaying visual images, thereby satisfying the

needs of multimedia conferences" is inaccurate. There is no applicable teaching by Grabelsky,

and nothing is made obvious. This reasoning failing, Applicants maintain that claim 42 is

allowable.

Claims 43-49 and 51

The Examiner rejected claims 43-49 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly

unpatentable over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent

No. 6,141,777). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following

arguments.

First, with respect to claim 43, the Examiner states that Stewart teaches "a multimedia

collaboration system for conducting a conference among a plurality of participants (Figure 1)."

Applicants disagree. As argued regarding Claim 1, Stewart does not teach a multimedia network

nor anything that could be construed as a multimedia network.

Second, as was argued in connection with claim 31 and 42, Stewart fails to teach "a data

network providing a data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of participants

(Figure 1, network 10)."

Third, as was argued in connection with claim 1, Stewart fails to teach or suggest the "an

event monitoring module for monitoring internal network system events, external network

system events, and service events."

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Finally, as argued with respect to claim 1, Applicants again respectfully submit that

Stewart and Curtell cannot be combined, and further the aforesaid combination does not cover

the structure of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants maintain that claim 43 is allowable.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 44, Applicants respectfully disagree

with Examiner's purported identifications of various elements of this claim in Stewart.

Specifically, as stated above in connection with claim 1, Stewart fails to teach or suggest the

"network control system configured to monitor event information, said event information

comprising internal network system events, external network system events, and service events."

Further, the Examiner asserts Curtell teaches a telecommunications reporting service that

receives parameters specifying data to report to a user" (page 18). As argued with respect to

claim 1, Applicants again respectfully submit that Stewart and Curtell cannot be combined, and

further does not cover the structure of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants maintain that

Claim 44 is allowable.

Additionally, as with Claim 1, Examiner asserts the "...collaboration reporting system

could be considered a multimedia collaboration reporting system because voice communication

is a form of multimedia collaboration." As explained in the material relating to Claim 1,

Applicant respectfully maintains the Examiner's position is incorrect. As argued there, the voice

networks of Stewart and Curtell are "single-media networks." Although a multimedia network

can carry a single media, a single-media network cannot carry multimedia information. A single-

media network simply cannot be construed a multimedia network. Therefore, claim 44 is

patentable for this additional reason as well.

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With respect to Examiner's rejection of claims 45-49 and 51, Applicants respectfully

submits that these claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on the patentable

amended independent claim 44.

<u>Claim 50</u>

The Examiner rejected claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable

over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent No.

6,141,777) and further in view of Ditmer et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,490,620). Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that this claim is patentable at least

due to its dependence on the patentable amended independent claim 49.

<u>Claims 52 and 53</u>

The Examiner rejected claims 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly

unpatentable over Stewart et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,389,112) in view of Curtell et al. (U.S. patent

No. 6,141,777). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following

arguments.

First, as with claims 1, 31 and 42, 43 and 44, Applicants respectfully disagree with the

Examiner's purported identification of various elements of claim 52 in Stewart. Specifically, in

the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Stewart teaches "an event monitoring module for

monitoring internal network system events, external network system events, and service events,"

citing 6:34-44 and Table 1 of Stewart. The reasons the Examiner's identification of elements is

believed to be improper have been stated in detail above in connection with claim 1. These

reasons are believed to be fully applicable to claim 52 as well.

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Further, Examiner asserts Curtell teaches a telecommunications reporting service that

"receives parameters specifying data to report to a user" (page 18). As explained in detail with

respect to claim 1, Applicant again respectfully submits that Stewart and Curtell cannot be

combined, and that the combination does not cover the structure of the claimed invention. The

Examiner's rejection of claims thus being traversed, Applicant maintains that Claim 52 is

allowable.

Additionally, as with claims 1 and claim 44, the Examiner asserts the "...collaboration

reporting system could be considered a multimedia collaboration reporting system because voice

communication is a form of multimedia collaboration." As explained above in the portion of this

response relating to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully maintains the Examiner's position is

incorrect. As argued hereinabove, the voice networks of Stewart and Curtell are "single-media

networks." Although a multimedia network can carry a single media, a single-media network

cannot carry multimedia information. A single-media network simply cannot be construed a

multimedia network. For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 52

is patentable.

With respect to Examiner's rejection of claim 53, Applicants respectfully submit that this

claim is patentable at least due to its dependence on the patentable amended independent claim

52.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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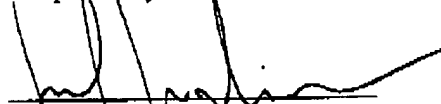
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23493
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 28, 2006
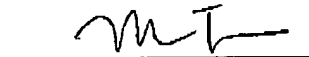
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is
being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this
28th day of February, 2006.

                                        Mariann Tam
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